

Hepatitis B virus infection among immigrant women in Taiwan

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Background and Aims Around 15-20% of adults born before 1984 in Taiwan are chronically infected with hepatitis B virus (HBV). A nationwide vaccination program was initiated to control HBV infection in Taiwan since 1984. Most countries in Asia have not introduced HBV vaccination into their national immunization agenda. Cross-national marriages have gained increasing popularity in recent years in Taiwan. This study investigated the prevalence of hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) and antibody to hepatitis B surface antigen (anti-HBs) among immigrants from other Asian countries.

Methods This study recruited 595 immigrant women who provided blood samples for HBsAg and anti-HBs tests.

Results The prevalence of HBsAg(+) was 8.4% (50/595), HBsAg(-) and anti-HBs(-) was 50.5% (301/595), and anti-HBs(+) was 40.7% (242/595).

Conclusion s Immigrant women were susceptible to HBV infection. Public health agencies should provide vaccination programs to decrease HBV carrier and infection rates for this population.

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